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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 L-01

SP-02 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 H-01 EB-03 OES-01 /046 W
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R 232200Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4899

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6416

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CI
SUBJ: THOUGHTS ON A UNGA BILATERAL WITH CHILEAN FONMIN CARVAJAL

1. AT A RECENT MEETING, AMBASSADOR TOLD CHILEAN FONMIN ADMIRAL CARVAJAL EMBASSY WOULD BE HAPPY TO TRANSMIT TO DEPT. ANY INDICATIONS HE MIGHT GIVE US WITH RESPECT TO POINTS THAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED IN TALKS WITH USG AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. CARVAJAL HAS NOT SO FAR RESPONDED, BUT WE PRESENT FOLLOWING THOUGHTS AS POSSIBLEY HELPFUL INPREPARATION OF DEPT'S CONTINGENCY PAPERS.

2. BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE NOT MATERIALLY IMPROVED SINCE SECRETARY LAST TALKED WITH CARVAJAL AT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ON BALANCE, THESE RELATIONS HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

A. ARMS AID TO CHILE HAS NOT BEEN RESUMED, DESPITE THE FORMAL EXPIRATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION ON JUNE 30 LAST.

B. THE ABRUPT REFUSAL OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET TO ADMIT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WORKING GROUP TO CHILE, AFTER THE GOC HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO DO SO, CREATED AN UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION; OUTSIDE CRITICISM OF CHILE'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES INCREASINGLY PRODUCES A SIEGE MENTALITY
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C. AS THE IMPLICATIONS OF SECTION 116 OF THE NEW FOREIGN AID BILL (HUMAN RIGHTS) AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE SINK IN, THERE WILL BE INCREASING ANXIETY HERE AS TO THE CONTINUANCE OF USG ECONOMIC AID TO CHILE. THIS WILL BE IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING FRUSTRATION OVER THE US FREEZE ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

D. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S SEPT. 11 SPEECH HELD OUT SOME HOPE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS, IT WAS CAST IN SUCH A HARD-LINE FRAMEWORK THAT WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE HOW MUCH ISGNIFICANCE THE PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WILL HAVE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO MULTILATERAL ISSUES, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ENJOY EXTENSIVE GOC SUPPORT, WHICH WE SHOULD APPROPRIATELY ACKNOWLEDGE:

A. THE REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION HAS BEEN HIGHLY SYMPATHETIC AT ALL CONCERNED LEVELS OF THE GOC, AND CHILEANS ARE EAGER TO PARTICIPATE IN CARRYING FORWARD ITS PROVISIONS AS THEY CAN. NATURALLY THEY ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH RESPECT TO COPPER AND WOULD LIKE TO WORK THROUGH CIPEC CHANNELS IN PARIS TO SEE IF A PRODUCER-CONSUMER MEETING ON COPPER WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

B. THE CHILEANS ARE STUDIOUSLY MODERATE ON THE PANAMA PROBLEM. THEY WOULD WISH TO HOLD BACK ON ANY LIBERALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PAOSSIBLE.

C. CHILE IS AGAINST EXTENSIVE TINKERING WITH THE OAS SYSTEM, AND WOULD LIKE TO PREVENT OR AVOID LATIN AMERICAN CONFRONTATION TACTICS WITH THE US.

D. CHILEANS ARE GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC WITH OUR LAW OF THE SEA OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING OUR VIEWS ON THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. THERE ARE SOME INTERNAL DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OVER WHETHER THEIR INTERESTS IN THE FRINGING ISLANDS AND THE STRAITS IN THE SOUTH MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL

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ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY LOS TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

E. CHILE IS PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN EFFORTS BY THE ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES TO REACH AGREEMENTS IN THE DISARMAMENT FIELD; A PROMISING START HAS BEEN MADE IN THE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS FOR NON-USE-OF-FORCE, AND FOR RESTRICTING ARMS.

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4. FROM THE EMBASSY' STANDPOINT, PRIORITY US CONCERNS MIGHT BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. WE HOPE FOR EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE OF ARMS ASSISTANCE.

B. WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THE CHILEANS TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE INTER-NATIONAL COMMUNITY: IF THEY CANNOT RECEIVE THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WORKING GROUP, PERHAPS THEY CAN FOLLOW UP ON AMBASSADOR MANUEL TRUCCO'S STATEMENT (QUOTED IN SEPT 22 WASHINGTON POST) THAT HE WOULD NOT OPPOSE A SUGGESTION THAT THE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RETURN TO CHILE.

C. WITHOUT HARRASSING THE CHILEANS OR ATTEMPTING TO TELL THEM HOW TO RUN THEIR GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN IN POWER FOR OVER TWO YEARS, TO RAISE THE QUESTION WHETHER THEY MIGHT NOT BEGIN MORE ENERGETICALLY TO MOVE BACK TOWARD NORMAL CIVIL RIGHTS PRACTICES, SO THAT OUR ECONOMIC, MILITARY, INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS MIGHT CORRESPONDINGLY IMPROVE.

D. FURTHER TO STIMULATE AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN INVESTMENT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE CHILEANS COULD PRESS AHEAD WITH A CLARIFICATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILEAN INTERNAL LAW AND THE RESTRICTIVE PROVISIONS OF DECISION 24 OF THE ANDEAN PACT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA06416
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750330-0539
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750926/aaaaawix.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THOUGHTS ON A UNGA BILATERAL WITH CHILEAN FONMIN CARVAJAL
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CI, UNGA, (CARVAHAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006